

The Library Assistant :

The Official Journal of the Library Assistants' Association.

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EDITORIAL.

Our Next Issue.—Following our usual practice, the Journal will not be issued in August, but the August and September combined issues will appear on 1st September.

The "Athenaeum Subject Index."—At the April reunion, Mr. Wyndham Hulme made an appeal for volunteers to assist in the task of indexing periodicals in connection with this valuable work. It has already proved itself to be of such value that we think it would be unfair to throw the entire burden on Messrs. Hulme and Hopwood, and a few others, while it would be deplorable if the work should have to be dropped through lack of physical as well as financial support. Whilst fully realizing how difficult it is for assistants to get time for any extraneous work in these days, we think that the task of indexing one review a month is not too much for any of us. If any of our readers feel that they can assist in any way, will they kindly communicate with Mr. Hulme.

Our Album of Honour.—There has been a slight falling off during the past month in the number of photographs received of men on active service. As it is possible that this may be due to the fact that we are asking for two prints of each portrait, we hasten to point out, that while we should like two copies where possible, we shall be only too glad to receive single prints where the other request cannot conveniently be granted. We are very anxious that our record shall be as complete as possible, hence the reason for referring to the matter so constantly. The Council is still open to receive offers of assistance from those who can help us in the matter of preparing carbon or platinotype prints.

A Blind Concert.—Miss Austin extends a cordial invitation to members of the L.A.A. to attend a concert which will be held at the National Library for the Blind on Wednesday, 4th July, at 7.30 p.m. We trust that many will find themselves able to avail themselves of this invitation.

Changes.—Having accepted a new appointment in the Library of the London School of Economics, our Honorary Librarian, Miss Connie Mitchell, has been compelled to relinquish the office she has held with such ability and fidelity for the past two years. The Association generally is greatly indebted to her for the despatch with which she has carried out the manifold duties devolving upon her, and the Council has at all times had every confidence in her administration of its little Library. The Council wishes, publicly, to acknowledge its obligations to her; and every Member will join in wishing her happiness and prosperity in her new sphere. For the present, and until such time as affairs assume a more settled aspect, Mr. William J. Harris has very kindly undertaken to render any services that may be required in connection with the Library. Mr. Harris's consent to this has relieved the Council of much anxiety, for his sympathies with the Association and long-sustained interest in its work assure the Council that demands made upon the Library by Members will receive the best possible attention. Hearty thanks are therefore offered to Mr. Harris for his goodwill, and students requiring books from the Library will address their inquiries to him until further notice.

Another change results from Miss Duménil's resignation of the Honorary Assistant-Editorship. The functions of this office render its duties anything but a pastime, for the addressing of the envelopes for each month's despatch of the *Library Assistant* is included, and as the list of addresses is in a constant state of change, much care and patience is necessary in order that every member shall receive his or her Journal without delay. The work is a sheer labour of love for whoever undertakes it, and Miss Duménil has faithfully continued it for nearly three years in a most business-like fashion. Miss Duménil states that she has enjoyed the work, and we may well believe that to be so, for seldom has it been done so efficiently. Hardly anyone, without experience, can form any conception of the work involved in providing sets of hundreds of envelopes every month, all of which must be in perfect accord with the latest information concerning the whereabouts of the individual concerned. So the Association tenders to Miss Duménil a very sincere expression of thanks for her devotion to its interests. While accepting the resignation of one faithful worker the Council is glad to be able to welcome the advent of another in the person of Miss Gwendolen Rees, who has kindly undertaken the duties Miss Duménil is resigning. Miss Rees possesses an untiring enthusiasm for the Association, and in accepting this office has proved that she is prepared to support her faith by works.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.*

By J. FREDERICK HOGG, Battersea Public Libraries.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

My first duty is to thank you for the great honour you have done me by electing me to the Presidential chair of the Association in the 23rd year of its existence.

Remembering the faithful and fruitful service of many of my predecessors, it was with some diffidence that I undertook the task. But under the kindly persuasion of our ever energetic Honorary Secretary and our genial and kindly friend Mr. Rees, I yielded, and consented to put on the yoke of office.

I am sure we all regret that our retiring President has never been able to attend any of the meetings during the past year. He is now on active service. We wish him a speedy and safe return to duties more congenial, in helping forward the activities of our North-Western Branch.

In Mr. Evan Rees we have had a worthy substitute. Had I been possessed of a prophetic insight into the future, and could have known that I should have been in this chair to-day, it would have made me a keener student of the art of tactfully and gracefully carrying out the duties pertaining to the office as portrayed by him. However, I shall do my best, and if I come lamentably short of the high standard to which you have been accustomed, be thankful that it is only for 12 short months, and that I have at my back the capable and never-tiring officers of the Association to help me in whatever I am called upon to undertake on your behalf.

To our Treasurer we owe a debt of deep gratitude, that although he has been overwhelmed with multifarious duties, he has successfully piloted our finances through a most difficult year.

In the hands of our esteemed Secretary the administrative work of the Association always runs smoothly, and his help and advice at Council Meetings is invaluable.

The Journal, in spite of paper difficulties and shortage of labour at the printer's, has appeared regularly. Although there have been no monthly papers to print, the issues have always been full of interesting information, which shows the ready resource and capability of our Editor.

At our Annual Meeting of last year it was confidently hoped that ere another came round we should have peace in Europe again. But alas, ladies and gentlemen, it is not so, and the battle seems to rage the more furious, and the

* Read before the 22nd Annual Meeting, 14th June, 1917.

terrible perpetrations of our enemy become more astounding.

The Apostles of the Land of Kultur, by sinking hospital ships, are only doubly confirming the determination of the Allied powers to crush this civilised barbarism, which knows of no action too diabolical to use as a means of murdering helpless and innocent lives.

As the final efforts of a dying beast in trying to overcome its opponent are the strongest, so seem the attempts of our enemy to destroy us, but the heroic deeds of our boys have frustrated their efforts, and ere long will bring us complete victory. But this cannot be accomplished without the sad loss of thousands of valuable lives, and we have to deplore the death during the last year of many friends and members of the Association.

The Annual Report gives a mournful list of those who cheerfully gave up their peaceful labours to assist in the fight for freedom and liberty, and have made the great sacrifice.

The memory of their devotion to King and country will live for all time in the hearts of their colleagues and fellow countrymen—

"Sleep on, O valiant dead! Take comfort where ye lie,
So sweet to live. Magnificent to die."

Let us go forward in our duties with a cheery optimism that peace will come before the dawn of another year, and when our comrades now in the trenches return home they will find that we have endeavoured, to the best of our ability, to carry on the work entrusted to us during their absence.

I will now ask you to bear with me for a few minutes to consider the affairs of our work and its future.

The policy of the majority of libraries has been to continue their activities during the war with as little curtailment to the public as possible. One can find no fault in the adoption of a decrease in the number of hours the buildings have been available for public use. That is a natural consequence of the shortage of staff, *plus* an incentive to save money. But I am of opinion that the action of some authorities in closing their libraries, or confining the issue of books to non-fiction, is to be greatly deplored.

We often hear it stated that Public Libraries are not essential to the successful prosecution of the war. Neither is the scavenging of our Public Highways directly necessary for its success, but for the health and comfort of those left at home and the future race it is absolutely requisite that they should be done.

So for the moral good, and the education of the rising generation, it is necessary that the literature at our command should be obtainable.

Moreover, think of the thousands of wives, mothers, fathers and sweethearts who have loved ones away "Somewhere in France" or other areas of the battle zone whose minds are continually dwelling upon the possibilities of their safety. Battling with the anxious cares of the home, always on the alert as to what news the next post is going to bring, don't you think that the solace of a good novel is a Godsend to them, temporarily to release their minds from the tensiety of their suspense. To be able to provide this antidote is to my way of thinking a beneficent work, and the longer the war continues the more necessary will it be. I cannot help saying that this restriction seems somewhat of an injustice to the poor. The well-to-do middle class will not feel the pinch so badly, for they can go to the Subscription Library for their books, but the man and woman who have all they can do to make both ends meet are deprived of their reading.

The question of economy cannot enter largely into the issue. The books have already been paid for; it is therefore a confiscation of the rights of citizens to prevent them using what they have purchased.

Statistics of recent annual reports mostly show a decrease in the issues of both Reference and Lending departments, attributable in a large measure to the number of men on war service, but the figures cannot be considered unsatisfactory.

Most Libraries are suffering from depleted staffs, and much good work has had to be postponed. But with the aid of temporary assistants, many of whom have taken an intelligent interest in their duties, the essentials of Library routine have been well carried on. It has been necessary, no doubt, for many Seniors to do more desk work than they have been used to for some time, but perhaps it has not been without its advantages. We should aim as far as possible to keep in touch with our readers and help them in their search for information. Of course we get our temper sorely tried at times by the Borrower who imagines that the whole Staff is at his beck and call from the moment he enters the building until his wants are satisfied. But we get the compensating humour from others which restores our equanimity. I was asked by a lady reader for "The Tale of Two Cities," by Marie Corelli. When I informed her Dickens was the author of that famous work, she politely

told me that she always mixed up the names of the authors of "The Romance of Two Worlds" and "The Tale of Two Cities." A bashful young maiden who asked for a novel by Wilkie Collins, when "Miss or Mrs." was suggested, replied that she would take "Miss" please.

These little asides break the monotony of the hours of continuous journeys from counter to book stack, which take up the larger part of the day's work.

Re-construction after the War is the phrase of the moment. It is being discussed by all the leaders in every section of our national life—religious, social, commercial and educational. The only re-construction we don't want is political. The question that concerns us is how much the work of the Libraries of the country require re-construction.

Our sphere is mainly educational, and we must seek to keep abreast with the new developments that are to be made in the world of scholarship. I think it was Mr. Pacy, who, the other evening said that the reason the educational needs of England were neglected by the government was the lack of interest shown by the people. So with Libraries; until the inhabitants of a town evince a larger enthusiasm in their utility, the governing authority will be content with the existing state of affairs. Although your Library may have been established for 10 or 20 years you can still find men who tell you with a certain amount of pride that they have never been inside the building. I always condole with any I meet and invite them in to see our work.

But there are signs that we are waking up. The Minister for Education in his speech on the Education estimates outlined a scheme of far-reaching importance which proposes to give better opportunities for the poorer students to enter the Secondary schools, the extension of the age limit for compulsory attendance, and a liberal supply of scholarships for science, economics and modern humanities.

From our point of view this will mean a greater demand for books on these subjects, and more efficient assistance for research students. We should strive to get the teachers interested in our work, and I think that one way of attaining this object would be by allowing the Librarian a seat on the Committee of local schools managers. He would then be able to get into personal touch with them and show in what way the Libraries could be of assistance to their pupils.

It will be necessary to re-organize our libraries on up-to-date methods. A lady went into one not a hundred miles from here some time ago, with her little girl, to change a

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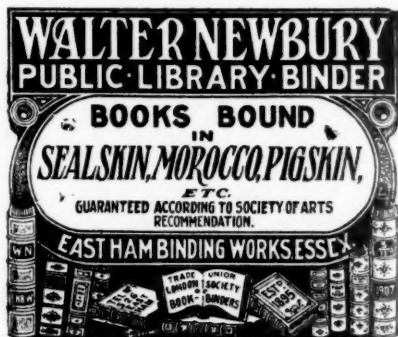
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ALBUM OF HONOUR.

The Association is anxious to secure

PHOTOGRAPHS

(Preferably carbon or platinotype prints)

Of all Library Workers on Active Service. Also

NEWSPAPER AND OTHER CUTTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS OF MEMORIALS, ETC.

If possible, two copies of photographs and other material should be sent, as it is hoped to place a duplicate of the Album in the British Museum.

Please send all material to:

MR. H. A. SHARP,

Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Summer School at Aberystwyth.

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Students wishing to avail themselves of this offer are requested to submit their claims and qualifications to Dr. E. A. BAKER, M.A., Hon. Sec. of the Education Committee, Caxton Hall, London, S.W.1.

Library Assistants' Association.

SOUTH COAST BRANCH.

The FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING will be held at the PUBLIC LIBRARY, BRIGHTON, on Wednesday, 11th July.

PROCEEDINGS.

- 4.15 p.m. Tea.
 - 5. 0 „ Annual Business Meeting.
 - 6. 0 „ Entertainment in the Permanent Gallery.
-

Members proposing to attend are requested to notify Miss ETHEL GERARD, Worthing Public Library, not later than 7th July.

"I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men do of course seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves by way of amends to be a help and an ornament thereunto."—FRANCIS BACON, BARON VERULAM.

The Value of Individual Effort.

The Council of the L.A.A. is anxious that every Member and Associate should realize the value of his or her loyalty and support to Librarianship as well as to the Association. In these difficult days the L.A.A., which represents the largest body of library workers in the British Isles, needs the faithful adherence of every Member, and also his or her **ACTIVE CO-OPERATION**.

All Members of whatever grade should consider seriously their relationship to the Association, reflecting as to whether they are doing anything individually to further its interests. Each can do **SOMETHING**; not one is so isolated as to be unable to **ATTEMPT** assistance in some direction. The present times afford especial opportunities for the co-operation of **WOMEN ASSISTANTS**.

Information will be gladly supplied by the *Hon. Secretary*,
BROMLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, BRUNSWICK ROAD,
POPLAR, LONDON, E.14.

book, when the following dialogue took place:—"Mama, give me a penny." "Yes, my dear, presently." Later, as they were leaving, "Mama, you haven't given me the penny." "Alright, wait till we get to the shops." "But I should like some chocolate out of this automatic machine, mama."

The child's description of the Indicator was right; an automatic machine, and the persons using it were very much the same. The reader's business is to ascertain if a book with a particular title is available, and if so, the Assistant's duty is to get it for him. There are hundreds of books on the shelves which he might like better, but the machine blocks the way and he is not permitted to see them more than one or two at a time. A larger freedom is required to enable the public to handle their own books and satisfy themselves that what they borrow will give them enjoyment and instruction.

The age limit for entry into our Reference Libraries should be reduced to 14 or 15 from the 16 or 18 years that now appertains in some places; or, better still, if accommodation could be found, a Juvenile Reference Room instituted where the boys and girls studying for scholarships or other examinations would be able to obtain advice and help from a trained Assistant on the most suitable books to use for the subjects they were reading.

In the Commercial and Industrial life of the country new developments are in progress. Industries hitherto neglected are being launched, and better methods of production in all branches of trade are being sought. Men of science and technical experts are busy everywhere on new inventions for the benefit of mankind.

It has been deemed advisable in some of our larger towns to inaugurate a commercial department in their Libraries, where business men may have access to the latest information obtainable on all industries from the financial and technical point of view.

This may not be so necessary in London where we have the Patent Office Library and many technical libraries at hand, but I do think that more scientific and trade periodicals should be available in our Public Libraries, even at the sacrifice of some of the newspapers and magazines of general interest. The Daily papers all give the same current news. Why buy them all for the sake of their political colouring? The illustrated topical periodicals are furnished with practically the same pictures, and once scanned are soon forgotten. Why not reduce their number

and purchase others of a technical nature, especially those dealing with the industries of the locality.

The books in the Science and Useful Arts Sections of our Lending and Reference Departments require continual additions of the latest works published for the use of student and apprentice.

Those of you who have seen the last Carnegie United Kingdom Trust Report will have noticed that re-construction in the methods of training in Librarianship is urged. The Report, while commending the good work done by the Library Association in instituting examinations and issuing certificates of proficiency, states that more is required in the form of technical training, and this cannot be secured without providing more than occasional courses of lectures and correspondence classes. For that purpose Schools for Librarians might with advantage be established at the principal centres in the kingdom, co-ordinated with other branches of higher education which are there provided.

The idea is a splendid one, and if properly carried out would be of immense advantage to Librarians and the authorities whom they serve.

The present system of lectures and correspondence classes has been successful up to a point, but students have had to take the subjects piecemeal, and it has meant many years of toil before the Diploma could be obtained. The task of preparation has had to be done after a hard day's work had ended, by denying themselves of much-needed rest and recreation.

We want a method of training in Librarianship in England somewhat similar to that in vogue in the United States, where you can take a two years' course, as at the New York State Library School, or a one-year course, as at the Pratt Institute or the Drexel Institute.

Summer Schools for a term of from six to eight weeks are also offered to those who are already at work and cannot take advantage of the longer terms, and this system is in the hands of the State Universities and Library Commissions.

In the present state of Librarianship in England the latter course of education would, in my opinion, meet with the best success.

Libraries like those at the University of London and the John Rylands Library, Manchester, would be ideal centres for such work to be undertaken, and I trust that the Library Association and the L.A.A. will seek the co-operation of the Carnegie U.K. Trust in promulgating a scheme for training schools.

Miss Kate Fearnside has a somewhat pessimistic article in the "Library World" for May on this subject. She says the scheme is impractical at the present time owing to the war, but she seems to have overlooked the statement in the Report which says that "Careful consideration of details would be needed before any professional school of the nature outlined were established." Surely there is no need to wait for an indefinite period before any action is taken. The policy of "Wait and See" often leads to lost opportunities. If, as an Association we can help to bring this scheme into being, we shall be fitting ourselves to cope efficiently with the increased demand for knowledge from our storehouses of learning that is bound to come when we obtain the peace for which we are longing.

To show you the need of a good knowledge in just one of the subjects necessary for our work—that of Literary History—I will give you two instances of the jumbles in authors and titles of books related to me. An assistant was diligently searching in the card catalogue for a certain book. On being interrogated by a Senior in the Department, he informed him that he was trying to find Hackenschmidt's "Wealth of Nations." And in the second case a Junior said that a reader had asked for "The Life of Sir Henry Irving" by Christopher Columbus.

The Salary question always attracts our attention whenever and wherever it is mentioned. A further paragraph in the report deals with this thorny subject. It states that "the term 'Librarian' is lightly used, and often is applied to an official who is placed in charge of a collection of books with a very meagre knowledge of their contents, and still less knowledge of the profession to which he purports to belong. This attitude on the part of some authorities results in a salary being paid which is totally inadequate for the responsibilities of the post. The inevitable result is that the profession as it stands to-day offers little or no attraction to a person with ambition, and who has a future to provide for."

The Report goes on to say that this is the fault of the present rate limit. The provision of books and of an efficient library staff are considered after the charges for the provision and upkeep of the building are met.

I trust the Council of the L.A. will take this portion of the Report to heart, and endeavour as soon as possible after the war to get their Public Libraries Bill, which seeks, *inter alia*, to increase the rate limit to 2d. in the pound.

Apart from the possibilities of the payment of salaries

worthy of the office, no one knows better than the Librarian how much his work is cramped for the want of a larger income.

I have detained you long enough, so will close with two quotations from the writings of idealists on Libraries and their sphere. The first is from a little book entitled, "The Library a Divine Child," written by an American clergyman. He says:—

"We are engaged in a work for books, for books that will feed the soul, for books, that will enable men to see into the past, to live in the present, and provide for the future; for books, that we may converse in open time with the world, with heaven, and omniscience; for books, as tools to do our work; for books, that steel may sharpen steel; for books, that in the fashion of the day, we may sit still, and yet travel, circle, penetrate, and surmount the globe; for books, that in this intensely active, practical, mechanical, and manly age practice may be balanced with a proper knowledge of the writings of the world; for books to rusticate and exercise the wits, and make muscles mindly and spiritual; for books, that will give consolation, rest and character; for books, that will flower and fruit in all the arts of life; for books, that we may never be wanting for friends; for books, that will help us toward the ideal; for books, that will enable us to live in the world, while not of the world; for books, for whatever good to which they may be applied."

The second is taken from the Annual Report of the Boston (U.S.A.) Public Library in which the Librarian says:—

"The Work of a Public Library cannot be shown by statistics, however necessary these may be as definite records. No one can measure by terms of mathematics the element of personality which enters into all human relations and upon which the success of a public library depends. The great libraries of the past were used chiefly by the select and cultured few, but the modern public library can no longer remain a mere storehouse for books, a museum for the collection of rare volumes, nor cater almost entirely to a literary class whether readers or writers. However important these functions, and no great public library may neglect them, it must also expand on its democratic side. As a library for the people it must include the business man, whose problems have in recent years been broadly considered in books.

It must aid the working man in increasing his efficiency, and in some way bring him within its influence to a far greater extent than at present. It must provide for the children, and introduce them to that great world of books within which they will in after years find pleasure and profit. And more than all, perhaps, it must promote the use of books, not merely as instruments of knowledge, but as a means of culture and enjoyment."

Ladies, and gentlemen, if in our life's work we seek to attain these ideals, we shall not have lived in vain.

TO MY FELLOW COLLEAGUES :

A Message from the Vice-President.

As Vice-President of the Library Assistants' Association I have been asked to send a message to the Members of that Association—and particularly to the women Members of it.

The shorter the message, the more likely is it to be remembered, and so mine to you, is, briefly, "Carry on and put your best into your work."

While knowing how magnificently both men and women have adapted themselves to circumstances during the past three years it must be admitted that a great deal of rubbish has been written and talked lately about some of the "Workers."

Particularly in the case of a certain class of "woman war worker," whose photographs in becoming and impossible garb confront us almost daily in the illustrated press. There may be some of us who, having steadily worked for years, have been tempted, when comparing our work and wages with such more popular war work, to think that doing our duty by remaining at our posts is of little or no importance. This is not so. Every Library Assistant who faithfully "carries on" to-day in a cheerful and unselfish spirit is doing work of national importance. Good work is never wasted even if unrecognised and unappreciated, and long after the type of "war-worker" already referred to has been forgotten, those who quietly put good work into life will still hold their own unchallenged among the world's workers.

ETHEL GERARD.

L.A.A. ROLL OF HONOUR (continued).

Bolton: (Revised List). WILLIAM BLACKBURN (R.A.M.C.);

*H. M. ELLISON (R.E.); *NORMAN ENTWISLE (Training Reserve); HAROLD HEMER (R.E.); RICHARD PARKER (Loyal North Lancs.); J. H. ROTHWELL (Training Reserve); FRANK SEFTON (Loyal North Lancs.); GEORGE SLINGER (R.F.A.); *JOHN SMITH (A.S.C.); WILFRED SMITH (Loyal North Lancs.); JOHN THORPE (Training Reserve); WILLIAM WORRALL (A.S.C.)

Greenwich: W. E. BARNES (A.S.C.).

Kensington: O. G. CASELTON (R.G.A.)

Leamington: *W. EWART OWEN (A.O.C.).

Sion College: *F. J. BOXALL (London Rifle Brigade).

Taunton: H. E. G. CAMP (3rd Somerset Light Infantry).

Wallasey: †W. WILSON (A.S.C.).

KILLED IN ACTION, ETC.

Our readers will join with us in expressing our deep sympathy with the relatives and friends of the following, who have recently been killed in action:—

Cpl. W. S. Braine (East Ham). Killed in action in France, on 1st May, while taking a German trench. Mr. Braine was a member of the East Ham Libraries staff since 1908, and at the time of joining the Army was a senior assistant at Manor Park. He was only 24 years of age, and leaves a widow and one child to mourn his loss.

***J. A. Conmee** (National Library of Ireland).—On Friday, May 4th, Lieut. John Alphonsus Conmee, York and Lancaster Regiment, formerly an

*Member L.A.A.

† Fellow L.A.A.

assistant in the National Library of Ireland, was killed "whilst very gallantly leading his men" into action in France. He was gazetted to a commission on April 5th, 1915, was at first trained in the Officers' Training Corps, Trinity College, Dublin, was then stationed with his regiment in northern England, and much employed in helping to train new drafts. He was sent to France in charge of detachments a few times before he was finally himself sent to the front at the close of 1916.

Lieutenant Conmee was educated at the Catholic University School, Dublin, and was captain of the School's Senior Cricket Eleven, and of the Junior Rugby Fifteen. After school life, he remained a player of cricket and Rugby football, and was a remarkable swimmer. He had eminently the *morale* of the gallant sportsman. He was withal a highly intelligent and valuable Library Assistant, and his loss is deeply felt by his colleagues and a wide circle of friends. In a letter to his father, his captain stated that he was "absolutely loved by all his men and by his brother officers."—

T. W. LYSTER.

U. P. Davis.—Second Lieut. U. P. Davis (London Regiment), eldest son of Mr. Cecil T. Davis, the well-known librarian of Wandsworth, has been killed in action.

WOUNDED, ETC.

***E. Bottomley** (Rochdale).

***J. N. Dykes** (Rochdale). Prisoner of War.

C. S. Johnson (librarian, Teddington). Wounded whilst serving in France, but is progressing satisfactorily.

PROMOTIONS AND DECORATIONS.

Our hearty congratulations are tendered to the following assistants who have recently gained distinction while on active service:—

***W. J. C. Burch** (Fulham). Appointed Second Lieutenant, regiment unknown.

***B. Crook** (Leyton). Awarded the Military Medal for distinguished conduct.

***H. Dixon** (St. Bride Foundation). Appointed Second Lieutenant, Northumberland Fusiliers. Mr. Dixon has already served in France for 21 months, and has just left England again to join his new regiment.

F. J. B. Hammersley (East Ham). Appointed Second Lieutenant Middlesex Regiment, 1915. Mentioned by Sir Douglas Haigh as "deserving of special mention," May, 1917.

Henry Martin (Walthamstow). Appointed Second Lieutenant, 7th Norfolk Regiment.

*Member, L.A.A.

PROCEEDINGS.

There was a good attendance on Wednesday, 9th May, when the final reunion for the present session was held. Mr. R. A. Peddie being elected to the Chair, an informal discussion was opened on "Public Libraries After the War," which was contributed to by most of those present. Among the questions discussed were such important matters as: the possibility of a dearth of library assistants after the War, and the wider opening of librarianship as a field of employment for women, the increase of ways and means for extending the activities of the Public Libraries of the country, the need for drawing the attention of the public to the importance of the public library as a potent factor in the life of the community, and the position of the librarian and of the library assistant.

At the conclusion of the meeting a very hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. MacAlister for his kindness in extending such cordial hospitality to the profession during the winter, and the hope was expressed that should the War not be over by the autumn, Mr. MacAlister would see his way to arrange for a continuance of these pleasant reunions.